







NATIONAL DEPUTY OF UKRAINE: Representative of the Authority of the Nation

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Annotation

This volume describes the Ukrainian legislature, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, its functions, powers and authority vis-a-vis the executive branch and the judicial branch of power in the context of establishment and institutionalization of democratic governance practices in Ukraine. A consolidating democracy, Ukraine has covered enormous distance in adopting democratic parliamentary procedures and ways of conducting parliamentary business in the 11 years since its independence. Three convocations of the Ukrainian parliament adopted many legislative acts needed by a budding democracy to support its economic and social development.

In the foreword, theoretical foundations of democracy and democratic development are discussed, focusing specifically on the main tasks facing the Verkhovna Rada of the fourth convocation: legislation in the areas of judicial, administrative, and local government reform, and also bringing existing legislation in line with the Constitution of Ukraine and other legislation.

Chapter 1 expands on the historic roots of parliamentarism in the world and specifically in Ukraine. Subchapters 2 and 3 focus specifically on the development of the Ukrainian representative institutions throughout the history of Ukrainian states from 19th century until 20th century.

Chapter 2 focuses on the relationships between the three branches of power - legislative, executive, and judiciary - as well as their powers and responsibilities. It also covers the topic of local self-government institutions' relationships with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Chapter 3 describes the internal management system of the Verkhovna Rada, its departments and support units, their functions and the role in the structure of the Ukrainian legislature. It also describes the authority and activities of the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine and the Office of Ombudsman.

Chapter 4 focuses on powers and responsibilities of the people's deputy of Ukraine, and their major functions, ethics, and privileges.

In the Conclusions section, the authors once again underline the importance of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in the system of government in Ukraine.

Throughout these chapters, the volume specifically focuses on three major parliamentary functions - legislative, representative, and oversight- with the goal to promote continuation of democratization processes in the Ukrainian parliament in order for it to become a more open, transparent and viable institution.

Despite its predominantly informational nature, the volume may serve as a source of theoretical principles and priorities of the Verkhovna Rada of the Fourth Convocation for national deputies, their aides, staff members of the Ukrainian legislature, and Ukrainian university students.